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27 November 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: The Possibilities of an Expanded Option A in South Vietnam

FROM : George A. Carver, Jr., ONE/FE

1. In light of the 25 November discussion of the possibilities of an expanded Option A, I am forwarding a memorandum on this topic originally written for Mr. Robert Johnson of the Department of State.
2. On 12 November, Mr. Johnson requested a "free thought" input to a study of Option A he was drafting as part of the over-all Bundy package. The attached document was sent to him as a blind memorandum, without signature, attribution or source identification. It was emphasized that this was an individual piece, a "non-paper", which he could use if he so desired but which did not necessarily represent official views of this Agency or any component thereof.
3. Mr. Johnson subsequently phoned to say he had found the piece helpful and would like to show it to Mr. William Bundy and Mr. Forrestal. After obtaining Mr. Colby's approval, we agreed to let Mr. Johnson do this, provided that he make explicit the non-official nature of the document and did not represent it as an Agency product.
4. In essence, this paper complements the study of the same subject embodied in the DDP Memorandum of 23 November and the attachments thereto. It was written independently of the DDP study but reaches the same basic conclusions. It is submitted as an illustration of the fact that there are a number of steps which could still be tried within the general framework of Option A before we decide that we must move to some variant of Options B or C.

Attachment: 13 November Memo for Mr. Robert Johnson

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